

The Nathaniel Crane House  
Clinton Road  
West Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Nathaniel Crane House  
Clinton Road  
West Caldwell, Essex County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. Ida May Blauvelt  
Andover, New Jersey

Date of Erection: About 1810

Architect:

Builder: A member of the Crane family

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone  
at fireplace end, rest  
frame construction

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The progenitors of the Crane family, three brothers, came from England and settled in what is now Montclair. Noah Crane (1719-1800) was the ancestor of the branch connected with this house. One of his children was Samuel Crane (1747-1811) who served as a private in the Revolutionary War. During

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the war his family lived on the location of the present dwelling of M. S. Crane. There is no record that either of these Cranes owned the property of the survey. Nathaniel S. Crane (1789-1870), known as "Lord North", was a son of Samuel Crane; it is not clear how he came into possession of this property. The present owner is a grand-daughter of Nathaniel Crane.

The old kitchen of the house was probably unfinished with exposed rafters. Mrs. Blauvelt remembers her aunt speaking of the floors as being sanded and of hanging herbs on the rafters. The second floor was later finished for sleeping quarters. Many of the fireplaces in the old houses were large enough to take an eight foot log and a horse had to be used to drag the log into the kitchen fireplace. According to members of the family this is true of the kitchen fireplace of this house.

#### Bibliography:

Information from Caleb Crane, West Caldwell, a cousin of the owner, and from his son Zenas Crane

Field Book and Drawings of Survey

Nathan C. Pitt  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer